



DIVISION III
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NCAA DIVISION III
PRESIDENTS AND MANAGEMENT COUNCILS
SUMMARY OF SUMMER 2026
QUARTERLY MEETINGS

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Division III Management Council July 20-21, 2026, Meeting	Division III Presidents Council Aug. 3, 2026, Videoconference
ATTENDEES	ATTENDEES
Melissa Baumann, Ohio Northern University Joe Bednarsh, Yeshiva University Tony Berich, Stockton University Pete Bothner, Nazareth College Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (<i>via videoconference</i>) Donnie Brooks, Macalester College (<i>via videoconference</i>) Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College [<i>Presidents Council chair</i>] Michael Cohen, King's College (Pennsylvania), SAAC representative Myranda Crews, Brevard College Ryan Erwin, East Texas Baptist University Todd Gibson, Grove City College Marybeth Lamb, Bridgewater State University (MA) Rob Larson, Luther College [<i>chair</i>] Heather MacCulloch, Baruch College Russ Rogers, Stevens Institute of Technology (<i>via videoconference</i>) Meghan Roman, Illinois College Andrea Savage, New England Small College Athletic Conference Heather Schuyler, Adrian College Anthony Scola, North Park University Luana Batista Soares, University of Massachusetts Boston, SAAC representative Patrick Summers, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference	Allan Belton, Pacific Lutheran University Kristie Bowers, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (<i>Management Council vice chair</i>) David Bushman, Bridgewater College (VA) Marc Camille, Albertus Magnus College [<i>chair</i>] Alberto Cardelle, State University of New York at Oneonta Debbie Cottrell, Texas Lutheran University Suzanne Davis, Greenville University [<i>vice chair</i>] Connor Dong, University of Chicago, SAAC representative Katherine Frank, University of Wisconsin-Stout Holly Hall, Alma College, SAAC representative Julia Jasken, McDaniel College Marisa Kelly, Suffolk University Lake Lambert III, Hanover College Rob Larson, Luther College [<i>Management Council chair</i>] Carolyn Ringer Lepre, Salisbury University Andrew Manion, Edgewood University Andrew Martin, Washington University in St. Louis Steven Mauro, Alfred State University Raymond Rice, University of Maine at Presque Isle
ABSENTEES	ABSENTEES
None.	Gary Crosby, Saint Elizabeth University Milton Moreland, Centre College Jim Troha, Juniata College [<i>ex officio</i>] Adam Weinberg, Denison University

OTHER PARTICIPANTS	OTHER PARTICIPANTS
Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Dawn Buth, NCAA Jenn Fraser, NCAA Terri Steeb Gronau, NCAA Leah Hartsock, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Kat Harwood, Deloitte (<i>via videoconference</i>) Malik Henry, NCAA Secaida Howell, NCAA Gina Lehe, NCAA Bryn Mangold, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Nikki Pieart, NCAA Angela Red, NCAA Bill Regan, NCAA Sam Renaut, Deloitte (<i>via videoconference</i>) Lisa Rogers, NCAA Anne Rohlman, NCAA Luke Schultheis, NCAA Rachel Seewald, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Geoff Silver, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA Liz Turner Suscha, NCAA Jared Tidemann, NCAA Sarah Turner, NCAA (<i>via videoconference</i>) Jacob Virtue, Deloitte (<i>via videoconference</i>) Julie Zike, NCAA	Charlie Baker, NCAA Corey Berg, NCAA Gary Brown, NCAA Dawn Buth, NCAA Jennifer Fraser, NCAA Leah Hartsock, NCAA Eric Hartung, NCAA Kat Harwood, Deloitte Secaida Howell, NCAA Louise McCleary, NCAA Jeff Myers, NCAA Laura Peterson-Mlynski, NCAA Dick Rasmussen, Division III Parliamentarian Bill Regan, NCAA Lisa Rogers, NCAA Ali Spungen, NCAA

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

July 20-21 Management Council. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time on July 20 and 21. The chair, Rob Larson, welcomed the council and reviewed guest presenters and key agenda items.

Aug. 3 Presidents Council. The videoconference was called to order at 11:02 a.m. Eastern time, Aug. 3. The chair, Marc Camille, welcomed the council, previewed key agenda items, and noted that Kristie Bowers, the director of athletics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was joining the meeting since she was elected to fill the Management Council vice chair vacancy through the end of the 2027 NCAA Convention.

2. REVIEW OF RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

a. Management Council Meetings – April 13-14, 2026.

Management Council. The Management Council approved the report from its April 13-14 videoconference.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Summary of Spring 2026 Quarterly Meetings.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the summary of their spring meetings.

c. 2026 Committee/Subcommittee Assignments.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council members reviewed their 2026 assignments.

d. Division III Philosophy Statement and Strategic Positioning Platform.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the division's philosophy statement and strategic positioning platform and referred to these resources to support discussions throughout the agenda.

e. Administrative Committee Report.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the Administrative Committee's recent report and ratified the committee's action to appoint the following new members to the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee:

- **Hunter Augustine**, La Roche University, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference.

- **Avery Watts**, Mississippi University for Women, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

f. Presidents Council Policies and Procedures.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved its updated policies and procedures as presented.

g. Presidents Advisory Group.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council received the report from the advisory group's June 15 videoconference as information. No action was necessary.

3. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AFFECTING DIVISION III.

a. Division III Joint Presidents Council/Management Council Committees or Subcommittees.

Staff Liaison:
Regan

Council Reps:
Bednarsh, Belton,
Berich, Brooks,
Bushman, More-
land, Manion

(1) Convention Planning Subcommittee.

Management Council. The council endorsed the proposed topics for the Division III educational sessions at the 2027 NCAA Convention in Anaheim, CA, which are (1) Beyond ChatGPT Basics: Practical Tools for the AI-Driven Athletics Leader; and (2) Developing and Sustaining a Healthy Department and Team Culture. These topics were selected as part of a program that solicits proposals from the Division III membership. Recommended topics for the Issues Forum are updates from the NIL and Division III Analysis Working Groups and a review of 2027 Convention legislative proposals.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Joint Legislative Steering Subcommittee.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed the report from the subcommittee's June videoconference. No action was necessary.

(3) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received the report from the subcommittee's June videoconference. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Berg, McCleary,
Myers

Council Reps:
Bauman, Bednarsh,
Camille, Cottrell
Frank, Jasken, Lar-
son, Scola, Wein-
berg

Staff Liaison:
Henry

Council Reps:
Bowers, Cardelle,
Lambert

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Hubert,
Regan, Myers

Council Reps:
Davis, Lepre,
Roman

(4) **Strategic Planning and Finance Committee (SPFC).**

(a) **Division III Strategic Plan Implementation for 2026-27.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the implementation plan for the division's strategic plan in 2026-27 as outlined in the Attachment. (The items in red font in the Attachment are the identified priority initiatives and programs.)

(b) **Division III Championships and Enrichment Fund Budget Initiatives for FY27 and FY28.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils approved the recommended allocations for Division III championships and the Division III Enrichment Fund initiatives. The allocations include the following:

- Championship budget enhancements of \$1.7 million in 2026-27 and \$790,000 in 2027-28 that include expenses related to bracket expansion; an increase in per diem and officiating fees; a joint championship for women's basketball in 2028; and a new Division III Women's Wrestling Championship in 2028.
- An increase of \$522,000 in new Enrichment Fund initiatives for 2026-27 that include a two-year increase to the conference grant program to offset web platform hosting increases; a one-time grant to support officiating; inflationary increases for programs and NCAA Convention expenses; an initiative to add photographers at NCAA individual team championships to provide the membership with greater access to photos; a one-time expense to collect data from the National Clearinghouse to study football academic outcomes; and additional funding to support the partnership with the National Association of Division III Athletics Administrators.
- Supplemental budget enhancements of \$8.3 million in 2026-27 that include continuing the stipends provided to championship hosts to offset livestreaming costs; maintaining the health and safety grant for institutions; continued funding for institutions to participate in the Mental Health First Aid program; a new grant for institutions to offset athletics communications expenses; the development of new Division III-specific public service

announcements; and funds to provide flexibility in establishing brackets to protect highly ranked teams.

(c) 2025-26 Budget-to-Actuals.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils reviewed the budget-to-actuals for 2025-26 through the end of June.

(d) Future Budget Projections.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils revisited the projections reviewed during their spring meetings, noting that the new FY26 budget is approximately \$1.5 million higher than the FY25 budget due to the NCAA's broadcast agreements and an increase in championship ticket sales. Also included is the division's contribution to the Ray settlement as approved by the Presidents Council.

(5) Presidents Council Futures Subcommittee.

Staff Liaisons:
McCleary, Regan

Council Reps:
Camille, Davis,
Kelly, Mauro, Rice,
Troha

Management Council. The council received an update regarding the subcommittee's most recent meeting and the ongoing discussion regarding the Division III Analysis. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council reviewed reports from the subcommittee's recent meetings and noted the addition of Adam Weinberg, Kathrine Frank and Gary Crosby to the subcommittee, effective with its September meeting. The council also approved the subcommittee's recommendation to launch an initiative beginning this fall to create greater engagement and enhance the education of campus senior leaders (i.e., presidents/chancellors and athletics direct reports) with Division III governance. This new initiative, beginning Sept. 1, provides virtual and in-person opportunities to meet with campus senior leaders throughout the academic year.

b. Division III Committees.

(1) Championships Committee.

Staff Liaisons:
Peterson-Mlynski,
Suscha

Council Reps:
Larson, Rogers

(a) Division III Sport and Playing Rules Committee Appointments.

Management Council. The council approved the following appointments to Division III sport and playing rules committees that were recommended by the Division III Nominating Committee and endorsed by the Division III Championships Committee. The appointments are effective Sept. 1 unless otherwise specified.

i. **Sport Committee Appointments.**

- **NCAA Division III Baseball Committee – Patrick Haumesser**, assistant director of athletics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.

[Note: The council approved waiving the provision in Bylaw 21.9.1.3 prohibiting a conference from being replaced on a committee by another representative from the same conference for at least one year. The council later in its agenda supported a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to approve noncontroversial legislation eliminating this restriction going forward (see Agenda item 3-(b)-7-(a) on page 15.]

- **NCAA Division III Women's Golf Committee – Shelby DeVore** (Southeast Region), head women's golf coach, Trinity University (Texas), Southern Athletic Association; and **Stephanie Moorberg** (West Region), head men's and women's golf coach, University of Dallas, Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Committee – Ashley Durepo** (Region I), head women's lacrosse coach, University of Southern Maine, Little East Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Men's Tennis Committee – Scott Greve**, (Region VI), head men's and women's tennis coach, Anderson University (Indiana), Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee – Suzanne Venet**, (immediate vacancy in Region VI/Great Lakes Region), associate athletics director/senior woman administrator, University of Mount Union, Ohio Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Committee – Brittany DeHaven**, (Region V), interim co-director of athletics, Juniata College, Landmark Conference; and **Brienna Laskowski**, (Region VI), head

volleyball coach, Maryville College (Tennessee), Collegiate Conference of the South.

- **NCAA Division III Women's Wrestling Committee** – **Tricia Carver**, associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator, Maine Maritime Academy, North Atlantic Conference; **Peter Di Pol**, head women's wrestling coach, Bethany College (West Virginia), Presidents' Athletic Conference; **Joseph Jamison**, director of men's and women's wrestling, Ursinus College, Centennial Conference; **Gregory Lott**, director of athletics, Otterbein University, Ohio Athletic Conference; **Joe Norton**, head women's wrestling coach, North Central College, College Conference of Illinois & Wisconsin; and **Eric Van Kley**, vice president of athletics, Central College (Iowa), American Rivers Conference.

ii. **Playing Rules Committee Appointments.**

- **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Soccer Rules Committee** – **Jason Murphy**, head soccer coach, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Divisions II and III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Committee** – **Christopher Popovici**, head men's and women's track and field coach, State University of New York at Geneseo, Empire 8.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) **Noncontroversial Legislation – National Collegiate Championship Committee Composition.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to amend the composition of the National Collegiate Championship committees to (1) add nonvoting members; (2) add a non-voting Division I student-athlete; and (3) specify that when an autonomy conference sponsors a sport at the conference level, that conference must be represented by one of the Division I members on the committee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) Discussion of Alcohol Sales Policy at Division III Championships.

Management Council. The council noted the Championships Committee's discussion during its June meeting regarding the division's alcohol policies, which prohibit the sale of alcohol at championships except for during joint championships with other divisions conducted at the same venue. Because these policies have not been reviewed since the Division III Presidents Council reaffirmed them in 2018, the Championships Committee believes it is prudent for the policies to be reviewed to ascertain if any change is needed. Divisions I and II have since adopted changes permitting alcohol sales at their championships. Accordingly, the Division III Championships Committee discussed whether a similar approach would be desired rather than continue operating with the current policy and through waivers for a joint championship held at different venues. The council discussed the potential benefits and challenges of permitting alcohol sales, particularly at preliminary-round campus sites as opposed to finals sites in which facilities may be more equipped to manage the logistics. The feedback from the council will be reviewed by the Championships Committee as it considers a potential survey for the Division III membership regarding current regular-season practices and for Division III finals sites to inform future discussion.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(d) NCAA Power Index.

Management Council. The council received an update on the Championships Committee's review of NPI dial changes and the timeline for that review. The committee will finalize its review of dial changes for all sports during its August videoconference. The committee also will continue discussing the current policy regarding the timing of when changes to dials may be made.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(e) Coaches Connect Program.

Management Council. Based on results from a participant survey regarding the first year of the Coaches Connect program that began with football, women's ice hockey, and men's and women's tennis, the Championships Committee agreed to add women's soccer, men's basketball and men's golf to the slate for 2026-27 and make adjustments based on survey feedback to improve the way information is communicated throughout the program.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Perry, Zike

Council Rep:
Crews

(2) **Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement.**

(a) **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 14.2.5 – Eligibility – Academic and General Requirements – Seasons of Participation: 10-Semester/15-Quarter Rule – Hardship Waiver.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to permit a student-athlete to practice while a hardship waiver is pending with the NCAA staff. Currently, if a student-athlete has used four seasons of participation and is attempting to restore a season via a hardship waiver, they are permitted to practice while the hardship waiver is pending at the conference office. However, if the conference office denies the waiver, the student-athlete must cease all practice activities, even though the institution may still file a hardship waiver appeal to the NCAA staff. Procedurally, the conference office may approve only hardship waivers that meet the legislation. NCAA staff, per committee guidance, has the flexibility to approve hardship waiver appeals based on the totality of circumstances. Permitting a student-athlete to continue practicing while a hardship waiver appeal is pending keeps student-athletes involved with their teams and improves the student-athlete experience.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaws 21.9.5.4 and 21.5.9.4.1 – Committees – Division III Committees – Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement – Composition.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to amend the composition of the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement by increasing the size from six to 10 members. As a result of the federation of the previous Association-wide Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement is now a Division III governance committee. During 2023, the composition of six governance committees integral to the division's overall operations was increased to 10 members to provide consistency in size and regional representation. Increasing the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement would provide consistency in representation with the other Division III governance committees.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) **Amendments to the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Policies and Procedures.**

Management Council. The council approved the recommended amendments to the committee's policies and procedures to revise outdated language.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(d) Amendment to the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement Sports Wagering Guidelines.

Management Council. The council approved amending the committee's policies and procedures to add an option to the sports wagering guidelines that would allow the reduction of penalties provided it is the student-athlete's first violation, the violation does not involve integrity concerns, and the student-athlete engages in appropriate clinical evaluation or support.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Mikrut

Council Rep:
TBD

(3) Committee on Infractions (COI).

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Gmerek,
Hartung

Council Rep:
Savage

(4) Financial Aid Committee.

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Walters

Council Rep:
Scola

(5) Infractions Appeals Committee.

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Berg, Myers,
Turner

Council Rep:
Erwin

(6) Interpretations and Legislation Committee (ILC).

(a) Noncontroversial Legislation – Eligibility – Academic and General Requirements – Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment – Prize Money.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to permit individuals before initial full-time collegiate enrollment in team sports to (1) accept prize money

beyond actual and necessary expenses, and (2) to permit all individuals to accept any prize money from the sponsor of the event, even if the event is not an open event. Currently, individuals participating in individual sports are permitted to accept all prize money while those participating in team sports are limited to accepting actual and necessary expenses. This change ensures that all individuals are treated equally prior to full-time collegiate enrollment. Additionally, limiting prize money only to open events is overly restrictive, as the USOPC and other national governing bodies are permitted to provide prize money at invitation-only events. Removing this restriction will provide consistency, while continuing to prohibit individuals from accepting prize money from institutions or individuals associated with institutions.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(b) Noncontroversial Legislation – Legislative Process – Consent Agenda.

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to allow the NCAA Division III Presidents Council to create a consent agenda at the annual NCAA Convention meeting for use at the Division III Business Session, when appropriate. This change would provide the governance structure with the option of creating a consent agenda ahead of the Division III Business Session after monitoring membership feedback on the slate of proposals. Further, the decision to create a consent agenda would be made annually and would not require the governance structure to use one every year.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) Modification of Wording – Amateurism - Professional Draft Pre-Enrollment – Draft and Inquiry.

Management Council. The council approved a modification of wording regarding the professional draft before initial enrollment to more clearly reflect the intent of Proposal No. 2002-44, which clarifies that an individual may enter and/or be drafted by a professional league prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment without jeopardizing their eligibility. Current Division III legislation does not explicitly state that an individual, prior to initial full-time collegiate enrollment, is permitted to enter a professional league's draft and/or be drafted without jeopardizing their intercollegiate eligibility. Specifically, it speaks only to "subsequent to full-time enrollment." However, Division III Proposal No. 2002-44 confirms it

is permissible, so this modification of wording will provide clarification to the membership.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(d) **2027 NCAA Convention Legislation – Amateurism – Before Initial, Full-Time Collegiate Enrollment – Agent.**

Management Council. The council agreed to sponsor 2027 NCAA Convention legislation to permit individuals to enter into an agreement with an agent for the purpose of identifying or securing playing opportunities and receive benefits prior to their initial, full-time collegiate enrollment. The effective date of the proposal is immediate. Currently, individuals are prohibited from using an agent to help market their ability or reputation to secure that opportunity as a professional athlete, making Division III the most restrictive division regarding agents and agent activities. Permitting agent representation before full-time collegiate enrollment promotes the opportunities for individuals to make informed decisions about participation with a professional team and promotes alignment with current opportunities for agent representation related to name, image and likeness activities.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(e) **Official Interpretation Recommendation – Transfer Certification.**

Management Council. The council agreed to issue an official interpretation stating that Division III institutions shall apply Division III season-of-participation standards to transfer student-athletes' participation at a division or association that does not recognize the use of a season.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(f) **NIL Working Group.**

Management Council. The council received an update from the working group's first meeting. The working group reviewed the timeline and topics that will help shape its work leading up to the 2027 NCAA Convention.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Gmerek,
Hartung, Zike

Council Rep:
Berich

(7) **Membership Committee.**

- **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 20.11.4.8 – Minimum Contests and Participants Requirements for Sports Sponsorship – Acrobatics and Tumbling.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to eliminate the minimum number of participants requirement in acrobatics and tumbling for sport sponsorship purposes.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Roe

Council Rep:
Bothner

(8) **Nominating Committee.**

- (a) **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 21.9.2.3.1 – Division III Committees – Vacancies – Unexpired Portion of Term – Exception – Eligibility for Reappointment.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to allow conferences to be immediately eligible for representation on a committee. Current legislation precludes conferences from being immediately eligible for representation on a committee if the conference has just been represented on the committee. By allowing conferences to be immediately eligible for representation, the nominee pools will improve along with the efficiency of the appointment process.

[Note: The council also approved this proposal in final legislative format during its consideration of noncontroversial legislation to be ratified at the 2027 NCAA Convention. See Agenda Item 4-a-(1) on page 19.]

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

- (b) **Noncontroversial Legislation – NCAA Bylaw 21.9.2.2 – Division III Committees – Sport and Playing Rules Committees – Term of Office – Appointment or Election.**

Management Council. The council approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to allow the NCAA Division III Championships Committee to have final approval on the slate of nominees for Division III sport committees and Divisions II and III Playing Rules Committees. Current legislation requires the Division III Nominating Committee to forward the slate of recommended sport and playing rules committee nominees to the Division III Championships Committee for appointments, subject to final

approval of the Division III Management Council. By allowing the Division III Championships Committee to be the final authority on these appointments, it will improve the efficiency of the appointment process due to the high turnover of committee members. In addition, due to the nature of the work on these committees, they often need appointments made in a timely manner.

[Note: Because several appointments will need to be made before the council's next meeting in October, the council also approved this proposal in final legislative format for it to be immediately effective and thus provide the Championships Committee the authority to finalize those appointments. See Agenda Item 4-a-(4) on page 20.]

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(c) **NCAA Governance Committee Appointments.**

Management Council. The council approved the following committee appointments, effective Sept. 1, 2026, unless otherwise noted:

- **NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports** – **John Dunham**, director of sports medicine, Emory University, University Athletic Association; and **Caitlyn Lawrence**, head tennis coach, Smith College, New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Management Council** (immediate vacancy) – **Scott Musa**, director of athletics, Wilkes University, Landmark Conference.
- **NCAA Division III Nominating Committee** (immediate vacancy) – **Marqus Hunter** associate athletics director for compliance, Ursinus College, Centennial Conference.

*[Note: The Nominating Committee's report also included two appointments to the NCAA Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (**Hunter Augustine**, La Roche University, Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference; and **Avery Watts**, Mississippi University for Women, St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) that were previously approved by the Administrative Committee due to the immediate nature of the appointments. See Agenda Item 2-e on pages 4-5.]*

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Mangold, Spungen,
Trovato, Youngblood

Council Reps:
Crews, Gibson

(9) **Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update from their SAAC representatives summarizing highlights from the committee's April and July meetings. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Trovato, Zike

Council Reps:
Bothner, Bowers,
Erwin, Gibson,
Larson, MacCulloch,
Roman, Summers

(10) **Subcommittee for Legislative Relief.**

Management Council. The subcommittee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(11) **Management Council Federated Playing Rules Subcommittee.**

- **Ice hockey playing rule.**

Management Council. The council approved a recommendation to request that the Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel refer a proposed ice hockey playing rule requiring the use of cut-resistant protective equipment to the Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports Prevention and Performance Subcommittee.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Regan

Council Reps:
Brooks, Crews,
MacCulloch, Rogers,
Savage,
Schuyler

c. **Association-Wide Committees.**

(1) **Committee on Access, Opportunity and Impact.**

- **2027 NCAA Convention Legislation – Women's Flag Football as a National Collegiate Championship Sport.**

Management Council. The council agreed to sponsor 2027 Convention legislation to add women's flag football as an NCAA National Collegiate championship; further, to establish a women's flag football committee. The proposal's effective date is immediate for the establishment of the committee; the first championship would be conducted in spring 2028. As this is a common provision, Divisions I and II also must approve this legislation.

The council noted the sport's current sponsorship of varsity programs has surpassed the legislative minimum needed for consideration for a National Collegiate championship. More than 120 member institutions are expected to sponsor the sport in 2026-27 and more than 130 in 2027-28. The NCAA's continued focus and investment in expanding women's sports, investing in championship opportunities, and strengthening the NCAA's media rights

Staff Liaisons:
Berg, Merrill,
Miron, Hackworth,
Wilson

Council Rep:
Bowers

agreements make this an opportune time to elevate a new women's sport, particularly one that serves new and varied demographics and continues to grow rapidly.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Pieart, Rohlman

Council Rep:
Lamb

(2) **Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports (CSMAS).**

Management Council. The council received an update from the committee. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaison:
Seewald

Council Rep:
Brooks

(3) **Divisions II and III Playing Rules Oversight Panel.**

Management Council. The council reviewed the report from the panel's recent meeting and noted its concern regarding the ice hockey playing rule specified in Agenda Item 3-b-(10) on page 17.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Rogers,
Thomas

Council Rep:
Lamb

(4) **Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.**

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

Staff Liaisons:
Thomas, Rogers

Council Rep:
TBD

(5) **Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.**

Management Council. The committee had no formal report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

4. PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR THE 2027 NCAA CONVENTION.

a. Review of Noncontroversial Legislation to be Ratified at the 2027 NCAA Convention.

(1) **NC 2027-5 Division III Committees – Vacancies – Unexpired Portion of Term – Exception – Eligibility for Reappointment.**

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to allow conferences to be immediately eligible for representation on a committee rather than wait for one year.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) NC 2027-6 Playing and Practice Seasons – Water Polo – Preseason Practice and First Date of Competition.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to specify that in men's water polo, the first permissible competition is the Friday that is 14 weeks before the start of the NCAA National Collegiate Men's Water Polo Championship. Further, an institution will determine the start of preseason practice using the 16 units in the preseason practice formula before the first permissible contest date.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(3) NC 2027-7 Amateurism – Promotional Activities – Increasing Size of Manufacturer Logos on Equipment, Uniforms and Apparel.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to increase the permissible size of the manufacturer or distributor logo on official uniforms from two square inches to up to four square inches.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(4) NC 2027-8 Division III Committees – Sport and Playing Rules Committees – Term of Office – Appointment or Election.

Management Council. The council approved, in final legislative format, a proposal to allow the NCAA Division III Championships Committee to have final approval on the slate of nominees for Division III sport committees and Divisions II and III Playing Rules Committees.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

b. Review/Referral of Membership-Sponsored Legislation.

(1) Division Dominant Proposals.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to identify legislation that applies to all members of the division and is of sufficient importance to the division that it requires a two-thirds majority of all delegates present and voting at the division's annual or special convention. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the Division III Financial Aid Committee, the Division III Membership Committee, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(2) Legislative Process – Limited Window of Reconsideration.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to add a limited window of reconsideration to any proposal from the Presidential Grouping that passes or fails by two-thirds or fewer of the votes of the delegates present and voting at any annual or special convention of the division. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(3) Legislative Process – Legislate the Definition of the Presidential Grouping.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention stating that the definition of the Presidential Grouping – those national issues that prompt widespread concern among Division III chancellors or presidents – should closely resemble the definition of a division dominant provision (a regulation that applies to all members of the division and is of sufficient importance to the division that it requires a two-thirds majority vote of all delegates present and voting at the division's annual or special convention). This proposal would define items placed into the Presidential Grouping as division dominant provisions and would require those items to carry a two-thirds majority to pass. Staff noted that after review by the division's parliamentarian, this proposal has been deemed out of order. The sponsoring conference subsequently appealed this decision to the Presidents Council.

Presidents Council. The sponsoring conference submitted a formal appeal of the parliamentarian's decision ruling the proposal out of order. The sponsoring conference in its appeal reasoned that its proposal legislatively codifies that items placed into the Presidential Grouping, a category the membership already recognizes as including matters of significant, division-wide concern, are to be treated as division dominant provisions requiring a two-thirds vote to adopt. After review, however, Presidents Council members supported the rationale from the parliamentarian stating that the proposal in fact would allow the Presidents Council to unilaterally amend the voting line on any proposed bylaw change from a federated provision to a division dominant provision without the membership first voting whether to amend the voting line on the respective proposed bylaw change from federated to division dominant. As such, the council agreed that the proposal as submitted is out of order and must be withdrawn from consideration.

[Note: Staff noted that the sponsoring conference, per a previous suggestion from the parliamentarian before the appeal was submitted, prepared an alternate proposal cited in Item 4-b-(1) above (Division Dominant Proposals), which has been deemed in order because it prescribes the bylaws for the membership to determine as being division dominant rather than cede that authority solely to the Presidents Council. The conference submitted its appeal because it prefers this proposal but developed the alternate in Item 4-b-(1) if the Presidents Council upheld the parliamentarian's determination. Per the division's legislative process, the conference has until Sept. 15 to obtain a second sponsoring conference for the alternate proposal to be included for the 2027 Convention.]

(4) Eligibility – Age-Based Eligibility Model.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to transition from a season-based eligibility and waiver-driven framework to a continuous, five-year age-based eligibility model that mirrors the framework adopted by Division I. The period of eligibility will be triggered by either a student-athlete's initial full-time collegiate enrollment or the start of the regular academic year following their 19th birthday (whichever occurs earlier), operating continuously for five years with limited, clear exceptions (e.g., pregnancy, military service, and religious missions). Further, this proposal intends to establish an equitable implementation timeline providing current student-athletes with eligibility remaining after the 2025-26 academic year the benefit of whichever model is most advantageous, while exploring avenues to protect student-athletes finishing their eligibility during the 2026-27 academic year. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the Division III Financial Aid Committee, the Division III Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement, the Division III Membership Committee, the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(5) Playing Seasons – Football – Spring Period Practice Modifications. (Conference Sponsored)

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention from a Division III conference seeking to permit expanded instructional opportunities during the spring football practice period, including (a) the use of defined levels of controlled, non-takedown contact based on an established instructional tempo progression (e.g., walk-through, fit/tag, wrap and thud); (b) the ability to conduct instructional team activities, including multi-participant and full-team (11-on-11) settings, within those defined contact parameters; and (c)

additional flexibility in the use of protective equipment and teaching aids, while maintaining the prohibition on full-contact tackling, live scrimmages and taking a student-athlete to the ground. The proposal also would permit the 16 days to be used over a consecutive seven-week period (excluding official vacation periods). The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the Division III Football Committee, the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(6) Playing Seasons – Football – Spring Period Practice Modifications. (Institutionally Sponsored)

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention from a number of Division III institutions seeking to amend the spring football practice period as follows: (1) Establish four of the 16 days as walk-through days with no pads or helmets; (2) For the remaining 16 days, permit four days of student-athletes wearing helmets only, four days of shoulder pads and helmets, and four days of wearing full pads; (3) Establish a three-day acclimatization period where two days are helmet only and the third day may be shoulder pads and helmets; (4) Define permissible activities based on the protective equipment worn; and (5) Limit full padded practices to no more than 75 minutes of full-contact drills. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the Division III Football Committee, the NCAA Committee on Competitive Safeguards and Medical Aspects of Sports, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(7) Playing and Practice Season – Track and Field – Increase the Number of Exempted Two-Day Meets Counted as a Single Date of Competition.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to increase the maximum number of two-day track and field meets that may be counted as a single date of competition from four to six. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Interpretations and Legislation Committee, the Division III Men's and Women's Track and Field and Cross Country Committee, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(8) Division III Presidents Council and Management Council – Term of Office and Vacancies.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to change the length of the unexpired term which requires a vacancy to be filled from at least two years to at least one year for the NCAA Division III Presidents Council and Management Council to avoid lengthy periods in which an active multi-sport conference is not represented on either Presidents or Management Council. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Nominating Committee and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

(9) Eligibility for Championships – Permit Any Individual Competition Championship Modification.

Management Council. The council reviewed a membership-sponsored proposal for the 2027 NCAA Convention seeking to permit the adjustment of individual placements and the reallocation of awards when an individual competitor's performance is vacated due to NCAA action. Staff noted the proposal was not properly sponsored by the July 1 deadline; however, because it has been proposed by an institution, it has until Sept. 15 to obtain 20 institutions that represent four or more multisport conferences. The council referred the proposal to the Division III Championships Committee, the Division III Committee on Infractions, and the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for feedback.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

5. DIVISION III INITIATIVES AND UPDATES.

a. Chair and Vice Chair Elections.

Management Council. The council elected Kristie Bowers, associate vice president and director of athletics at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, as its chair, and Patrick Summers, commissioner of the New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference, as the vice chair. Their terms will begin after the 2027 NCAA Convention. Additionally, given the departure of the previous vice chair, Crystal Gibson, due to her taking a position with another institution, the council also elected Bowers to serve as the council's vice chair through the 2027 Convention, effective immediately.

Presidents Council. The council elected Suzanne Davis to succeed Marc Camille as chair at the end of the 2027 NCAA Convention. The council also elected Alberto Cardelle to succeed Davis as vice chair at that time.

b. Eligibility Discussion.

Management Council. The council discussed the current age-based eligibility model that was adopted in Division I and is being considered by Division II. A similar model also was submitted by the Division III membership for a vote at the 2027 Convention [see Agenda Item 4-b-(4) on pages 21-22]. As part of its conversation, the council discussed what information it would need in October to inform a recommendation as to whether the Presidents Council should take a position of support or opposition to the proposal. The council also discussed factors that will influence the membership's consideration of the Division III proposal, including the impact on student-athletes; whether it aligns with the division's philosophy statement; the financial impact on institutions and student-athletes; legal risks; and impacts on compliance, recruiting, and competition. Finally, the council considered what role the governance structure should take that would help the membership make an informed vote on the proposal.

Presidents Council. The council was informed of the discussion.

c. Governance Scorecard.

Management and Presidents Councils. Staff provided the results of the 2025-26 governance scorecard, which is a tool that allows Division III committee members to evaluate their committee service and the NCAA staff liaison's support.

d. Division III Analysis Working Group.

- **Review of Identified Tensions and Potential Mitigation Options.**

Management Council. Representatives from Deloitte joined the meeting via videoconference to update the council on efforts to support the analysis. The council endorsed the Division III Analysis Working Group's recommendations to refer the identified options to various Division III governing bodies, to the membership, and to a parking lot for future discussion. The council also cited the review of the playing seasons (traditional and nontraditional) as a priority and should be considered through a holistic approach that reflects the division's philosophy and impact on student-athletes and institutions. Additionally, the council believes that any solutions created through the referred options should assess their impact on the student-athlete experience, alignment with the division's philosophy and characteristics of the division that make it unique.

Presidents Council. Representatives from Deloitte joined the videoconference to update the council on efforts to support the analysis. The discussion included acknowledgement and appreciation of the feedback from the Management Council cited above, particularly the discussion surrounding the review of playing and practice seasons, which the council agreed was a priority. The council then approved the DIII Analysis Working

Group recommendation, and it also directed the working group to send case studies to the Management and Presidents Councils and the membership as they become available to encourage informed discussions regarding key topics (e.g., eligibility, NIL).

e. Graduation Rates Working Group.

- **Study of Division III Football Student-Athletes' Academic Outcomes.**

Management Council. The council approved two recommended studies on graduation and retention rates for Division III football student-athletes, noting that the cost for both studies was approved previously by the Division III Strategic Planning and Finance Committee as part of its support of Enrichment Fund initiatives for the FY27 and FY28 budgets.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

f. Commercial Logos on Uniforms.

Management Council. The council, after engaging in a joint discussion with the Division III Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, decided that allowing commercial logos on uniforms should be an issue addressed by the membership and that the governance structure will not review this as a concept for future Convention legislation.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

g. Expanded Corporate Partner and Advertising Categories.

Management Council. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. The council approved a change to expand the corporate partner and advertising categories. Previously, the policy regarding sponsorships and advertising was overseen by the NCAA Board of Governors. Several years ago each division was granted that authority. In May, the Division I Board of Directors expanded the sponsorship and advertising categories at the same time it approved expanding the Division I Men's and Women's Basketball Championship brackets. The new policy also provides opportunities to generate revenue from local sponsors around Divisions III and II championships. Accordingly, the council's approval maintains a consistent policy across the divisions and allows for potential new revenue opportunities for Division III.

h. Athletic Trainer Connect Concept.

Management Council. The council supported the continued consideration and development of a connect program for Division III athletic trainers. The program is designed to enhance engagement with athletic trainers and fortify their role as advocates for the values of Division III. The staff will contact the membership to

gain feedback on the concept, and the council will review the concept at its October meeting.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

i. Faculty Athletics Representatives Advisory Group.

Management Council. The council reviewed the committee's report. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

j. Championships Live Streaming.

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update on live streaming during the winter and spring championships, noting a more than 40% increase in live starts and an increase in minutes watched with 74 million. No action was necessary.

k. Division III Branding, Promotions, and Social Media.

Management Council. The council received an update on the success of the division's various social media platforms and recent efforts to develop new PSAs that are targeted for release during the NCAA Convention. No action was necessary.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

6. ASSOCIATION-WIDE UPDATES AND ISSUES.

a. Update from NCAA President Charlie Baker.

Management and Presidents Councils. President Baker updated the councils on issues affecting the Association and Division III in particular.

b. Board of Governors Updates.

• Noncontroversial Legislation – Sunset the NCAA Awards Committee.

Management Council. The council reviewed the report from the board's recent meeting and approved, in concept, noncontroversial legislation to sunset the NCAA Awards Committee. The recommendation is based on the lack of support for NCAA awards programming indicated from the membership in the spending prioritization survey. The Awards Committee oversees and operates the NCAA Honors program presented at the annual NCAA Convention. Sunsetting the committee will provide an opportunity to redefine the NCAA's individual awards to align them with the Association's core values. Specifically, the NCAA Elite Scholar-Athlete program will be modernized into a nationally visible, values-driven storytelling platform

that celebrates excellence in academics, athletics, leadership, and impact. The program will honor student-athletes with the highest grade-point averages competing at NCAA championships.

Presidents Council. The council, as part of the consultative process, received an overview of key agenda items for the board's Aug. 6 meeting.

c. Updates from Divisions I and II.

Management Council. The council received updates from staff leadership in Divisions I and II to help inform the council's discussion regarding a potential age-based eligibility model. Council members heard in particular the varied reasons for the other two divisions opting for or considering the age-based model (particularly the escalation of NIL earnings for Division I student-athletes, waiver volume and legal risks) and whether those factors overlap with or are relevant to Division III.

Presidents Council. The council received an update regarding the agenda for the joint meeting in October with the Division III Presidents Advisory Group and the Division II Executive Board.

d. Sport Science Institute (SSI) Updates.

Management Council. The council was updated on the following items:

- (1) **Year in review.** The council received an overview of the activities of the SSI staff during the past year, which featured 100 engagements by the NCAA chief medical officer with the NCAA membership and 35 scientific and professional events; and educational efforts that included six SSI spotlights, two team physician town halls and the development of 10 fact sheets.
- (2) **Athletic training workforce.** The council was advised that resources are currently being developed in conjunction with the national athletic trainer governing bodies to help address issues related to the hiring and retention of athletic trainers at NCAA institutions. Those resources should be available by September 2026.
- (3) **Age-based eligibility and drug testing practices.** The SSI staff is working to determine how the current penalty for violating the NCAA drug-testing legislation applies in the age-based eligibility model.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

e. Legal Update.

Management Council. The council received updates from the NCAA's office of legal affairs on litigation affecting the Association and Division III.

Presidents Council. No action was necessary.

f. **Congressional Engagement.**

Management and Presidents Councils. The councils received an update from the external affairs staff regarding recent actions to engage federal legislators regarding the Protect College Sports Act.

7. ***EXECUTIVE SESSION.***

Presidents Council. The council convened an executive session at 2:44 p.m. Eastern time.

8. ***ADJOURNMENT.***

Management Council. The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m. Eastern time July 20 and 11:32 a.m. Eastern time July 21.

Presidents Council. The meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m. Eastern time Aug. 3.